(b) if so, whether the Minister of Commerce and Industry has welcomed this decision; and

(c) if so, to what extent this has helped the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to the field formations directing all the Assessing Officers to keep in abeyance till 31.8.2005 all assessments and recovery proceedings relating to assessments reopened specifically to reassess the claim for deduction u/s 80-HHC.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The decision to keep the assessment and recovery proceedings in abeyance upto 31.8.2005 has provided temporary relief to the exporting community.

World Bank loan to Andhra Pradesh

1626. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed its willingness to extend loans to the tune of Rs. 7510 crores to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of roads, irrigation and slum area development schemes;

(b) if so, to what extent the World Bank has agreed to provide this amount of loan to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has discussed this issue with him; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have agreed to the suggestions made by World Bank for providing loans to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There is no ongonig World Bank assisted project in Andhra Pradesh for the development of Road, Irrigation and Slum Area Development Scheme. However, there are two pipeline projects funded by World Bank—(i) AP Urban Reform and Municipal Services Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 1050 crore, (ii) AP Roads Sector Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 1500 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central Government has posed both the projects to the World Bank.

Protection of interest of capital market intermediaries

1627. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee constituted by SEBI to protect the interest of all capital market intermediaries including listed corporate and retail investors recommended for consolidation of all security laws in the country on the lines of Financial Services and Market Act, 2000 of UK; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No such committee has been constituted by SEBI for the cited purpose.

Circulation of counterfeit currency notes

1628. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment about the quantum of counterfeit currency in circulation in the country has been made; if so, what is the latest estimate in this regard;

(b) whether Government have identified the possible sources and channel for induction and circulation of such currency;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the effective steps taken to prevent entry, manufacture and circulation of such currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM): (a) It is difficult to provide estimates on circulation of fake currency in the country. However, as per information furnished by RBI, the value of the counterfeited notes detected at RBI issue offices and